

CONGRATULATING EISENHOWER HIGH SCHOOL

(Mr. BACA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the boy's basketball team from Eisenhower High School—in my hometown of Rialto, California—for winning the CIF State title this past Friday.

With their 73-61 victory over the Rocklin Thunder—from Sacramento, California—the Eagles captured the first ever State title for a school from San Bernardino County.

The win was the 23rd consecutive victory to end the season for the Eagles, and came after tough playoff wins over State powerhouses Loyola and Leuzinger from Lawndale, California.

Everyone said they were too small, but led by head coach Steve Johnson, the undersized Eagles used speed and a tenacious defense to beat Rocklin.

On behalf of my family—Barbara, Joe Baca, Jr., Jeremy, Natalie, and Jennifer Baca—I want to thank the players, coaches, parents, and school administrators, who all contributed so much to Eisenhower's historic run.

On Saturday, April 11th, their courage and relentless efforts will be recognized with a ticker-tape parade in Rialto. I thank Eisenhower for the hope this achievement has brought to our inland communities during this time of economic difficulty.

TAKE A SERIOUS LOOK

(Mr. ROONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROONEY. Mr. Speaker, we've all heard about the out-of-control spending, the borrowing, the increase in taxes, the bailouts, the AIG bonuses, the stock market drop, the job losses, more foreclosures, government-run health care, increased gas prices, the credit crisis, more jobs lost, the President firing the CEO of General Motors, and more jobs lost—and this only in the first 2 months of this Congress.

Now we face a budget this week that will increase taxes, increase spending, increase borrowing more than ever before in the history of this country. We are also poised to make serious cuts in military spending in uncertain times.

We need to take a serious look in the eyes of our children and ask ourselves if they deserve the future we are giving them.

FINANCIAL-AUTO INDUSTRY DOUBLE STANDARD

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my disappointment in President Obama's decision regarding General Motors and Chrysler. Personally, I feel that Rick Wagoner was treated shabbily.

Financial institutions were provided with hundreds of billions of dollars—significantly more than the recent GM and Chrysler requests for new loans totaling \$21.6 billion, at most.

The people primarily affected by yesterday's decision in the auto industry are those whose greatest daily concerns are their mortgage payments, their children's college tuition, and medical bills. Financial executives are concerned primarily with their own bonuses, awarded for what can only be described as massive failure.

The President has joined the chorus of caustic critics of the automobile industry while only giving faint praise to the high-quality vehicles produced by the American manufacturers like the Buick LaCrosse, which this year matched the Jaguar in J.D. Powers and Associates' rating for the world's most reliable car.

This double standard is offensive, Mr. Speaker.

PROTECT AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

(Mr. FLEMING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in opposition to the Employee Free Choice Act, the title of which betrays the true nature of this bill. It represents nothing resembling "free choice."

This "card check" legislation is un-American and would strip workers of their fundamental democratic right to a secret ballot. Without the protection of the secret ballot, workers are likely to be exposed to pressure and coercion from union bosses and organizers.

My question to those who support this bill is: Why are you afraid of a secret ballot? Can't we give workers credit for making the right decision for themselves?

In addition, a recent study has shown that increases in union workers under card check rules will likely lead to an increase in unemployment due to making their businesses less competitive.

At a time when we should be focusing on job creation, the majority is pushing through legislation that will put millions of American jobs at risk while simultaneously eliminating a cornerstone of American democracy—the secret ballot.

As a small business owner myself, I can tell you that this legislation is a poison pill for the economy. I urge my colleagues to vote against this leftist, socialist legislation.

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COALITION

(Mrs. HALVORSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. HALVORSON. Mr. Speaker, the Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition is committed to the adoption of policies that will put our Nation on a path towards energy independence

and a prosperous clean energy economy. With legislation to encourage environmentally friendly energy production, we can finally achieve this goal. We can turn our American ingenuity towards a new and vibrant clean industry that will create millions of new jobs.

We cannot ignore the facts of climate change. We have to act now to ensure that our children and their children will enjoy the same Earth on which we live today.

Solar, wind, biofuels, natural gas, advanced coal technology, and others are not just the fuels of the future. They are the fuels of today. They are ready for large-scale use in the global economy.

American companies are ready to lead the way, but Congress must first take action. As a member of SEEC and as cochair of the New Dem Energy Task Force, I encourage my colleagues to participate in the debate for a stronger energy-efficient America.

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THE VOTE ON THE BUDGET

(Mr. KIRK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, we will vote on a budget this week, we will discuss spending and taxing, but we will not discuss how our kids will eventually pay these debts.

The Bureau of the Public Debt will now undertake a massive borrowing campaign. We used to borrow from about 45 major lenders, but that has now dropped to 16. Our biggest lender used to be China, but they are now reducing.

To fund the stimulus, the Bureau tells the Congress that we have to borrow at a rate of \$160 billion a week. And, last month Germany and the United Kingdom both failed to auction their debt because no one wanted to lend these governments more money. Each week, at four auctions a week, the United States will now risk the same fate.

What happens when this Congress runs out of other people's money?

LONG-TERM ECONOMIC PLAN BEGINS GROWING JOBS

(Mr. CARNAHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, the fallout from the failed policies of the last 8 years will take time to turn around.

The Bush administration inherited a record surplus of \$5.6 trillion, and turned it into a record deficit of \$5.8 trillion. President Obama's budget is a long-term plan to turn the economy around and transform it for future prosperity, with targeted investments in health care, energy, and education.